

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS

REF: (A) 76 MOSCOW 20034, (B) MOSCOW 3178

1. SUMMARY. DURING SOCIAL OCCASION MARCH 25, CHIEF OF FOREIGN VISAS SECTION, MFA CONSULAR DIVISION, Y.N. LUNIN AND HIS DEPUTY, V.D. DYUZHEV, CORNERED CONSOFF FOR LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF NIV MATTERS. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN TIME REQUIRED FOR NIV ISSUANCE, TRANSIT VISAS AND CHAKOVSKIY VISA REFUSAL (REFTEL A). END SUMMARY.

2. LUNIN AND DYUZHEV WANTED TO KNOW HOW QUICKLY EMBASSY COULD ISSUE VISAS IN EMERGENCY SITUATION. CONSOFF REPLIED THAT EMBASSY HAD DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY TO ISSUE IMMEDIATELY TO PERSONS ASSIGNED TO SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS COULD SOMETIMES OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FROM WASHINGTON FOR OTHER CATEGORIES OVERNIGHT. CONSOFF EMPHASIZED EXCEPTIONAL NATURE OF THIS ASSISTANCE AND ADDED THAT MUCH DEPENDED ON KIND OF COOPERATION EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN RECEIVING FROM SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON VISA MATTERS. HE CITED RECENT OVERNIGHT ISSUANCE TO SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION (REFTEL B) AS EXAMPLE OF USG EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO EMERGENCY REQUEST.

3. BOTH MFA OFFICIALS PROFESSED TO BE MYSTIFIED BY TIME REQUIRED
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TO OBTAIN TRANSIT VISAS. THEY ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY COULD NOT ISSUE TRANSIT VISAS IMMEDIATELY IF MFA CERTIFIED THAT RECIPIENTS WOULD NOT LEAVE AIRPORT. CONSOFF REPLIED THAT IF MFA PROVIDED EXACT ITINERARY, EMBASSY COULD IMMEDIATELY ISSUE TRANSIT VISAS TO SOVIET OFFICIALS TRAVELING ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. LUNIN AND DYUZHEV URGED THAT US ADOPT TYPE OF TRANSIT VISA USED BY MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, WHICH DOES NOT PERMIT BEARER TO DEPART AIRPORT, AND

PERMIT EMBASSY TO ISSUE IT WITHOUT CLEARANCE
FROM WASHINGTON.

4. USG VISA REFUSAL TO CHAKOVSKIY OBVIOUSLY STILL RANKLES IN MFA AND LUNIN AND YUZHEV SAID THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND REASON FOR REFUSAL. CHAKOVSKIY WAS GOING TO NEW YORK ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT, WHEREAS CONGRESSMAN FASCELL WANTED TO COME TO USSR ON MATTER INVOLVING SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS. CONSOFF REPLIED THAT IN USG VIEW BOTH REFUSALS INVOLVED MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES WHO WERE TRAVELING ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. BY END OF EXCHANGE ON THIS SUBJECT, LUNIN AND DYUZHEV, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE NOT ACCEPTING CONSOFF'S POSITION, SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND FOR FIRST TIME THAT CHAKOVSKIY VISA REFUSAL WAS NOT SIMPLY ARBITRARY.

5. DUYZHEV EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT USG POLICY WAS NOT TO ISSUE VISA TO PERSON WHO HAD BEEN REFUSED ONCE. HE SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO BE SURE OF THIS SINCE, FOR EXAMPLE, IF GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV SHOULD GO TO US IN NEAR FUTURE AND WANT CHAKOVSKIY AS PART OF DELEGATION, DYUZHEV WOULD HAVE TO BE ABLE TO ADVISE HIS SUPERIORS WHETHER INCLUSION OF CHAKOVSKIY WOULD CASUE PROBLEMS. CONSOFF STATED THAT THIS DEPENDED ON REASON FOR VISA REFUSAL. IN CHAKOVSKIY CASE, VISA WAS REFUSED NOT BECAUSE OF THE PERSON, BUT BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION. THEREFORE, HE COULD APPLY AGAIN AND APPLICATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF SITUATION AT TIME OF APPLICATION.

6 COMMENT. BOTH OFFICIALS EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE FOR COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP ON VISA MATTERS, EVEN TO POINT OF TELLING CONSOFF TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTACT THEM AT HOME OR WEEK-ENDS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. THEY HAVE IN FACT BEEN QUITE HELPFUL TO EMBASSY ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT IN POSITION TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON DECISIONS MADE FOR REASONS OF POLICY, WHEN PROBLEMS ARE BUREAUCRATIC, THEY SEEM TO BE ABLE TO GET THINGS DONE.

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Message Attributes

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